

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Amendments to the Specification

During a review of the specification, three typographical errors were identified, which are being corrected herein. No new matter is being added. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-24 and 27 were objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The claims were considered allowable if rewritten into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the basis for rejecting Claims 1-14, 25 and 26 (e.g., the applied prior art did not disclose a vertical surface that both contacted snow during use and that included an aperture through which can extend a support member), Applicant has incorporated the limitations of objected to Claims 21 and 23 into Claims 1 and 10 respectively in order to advance prosecution at this time. Applicant reserves the right to pursue in a related application claims at least as broad as Claims 1 and 10 prior to the amendments.

Claims 1 and 10 clearly define over the prior art and Claims 2-9, 11-14, 22 and 24-27 are patentable for at least the same reasons that Claims 1 and 10 are patentable. Thus, Claims 1-14, 22 and 24-27 are in condition for allowance. Consideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

New Claim 28 is previous Claim 24 rewritten into independent form and new Claim 29 is previous Claim 27 rewritten into independent form. Allowance of these claims also is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-19 Are Patentable.

Claims 15-19 stand rejected as anticipated by Lemieux. Applicant disagrees with the basis for the rejection.

Claim 15 recites, among other limitations, a vertical surface including a projection located forward of a support member for protecting the support member. Claim 15 also recites, among other limitations, a first generally horizontal upper surface extending laterally outward from a first generally vertical surface and a second generally horizontal upper surface extending laterally outward from a second generally vertical surface. Lemieux did not disclose any of these limitations.

Lemieux did not disclose a projection located forward of a support member for protecting the support member. As claimed, the support member is coupled to a steering mechanism. The mounting portions of Lemieux, which were identified by the Examiner as element 34, clearly were not proximate any projections and, therefore, the support member that would extend through the mounting portions would not be protected by any projections. Thus, Lemieux did not disclose at least this limitation.

Moreover, Lemieux only disclosed one generally horizontal surface that extended laterally outward from a generally vertical surface that extended generally upward from a lower surface. The generally vertical surface was distinct from the keel section. Thus, in Lemieux only one generally horizontal surface extended outward of the generally vertical surfaces (i.e., 14, 16). For this reason as well, Claim 15 is not anticipated.

Claims 16-19 are not anticipated for at least the same reasons that Claim 15 is not anticipated. In addition, at least some of these claims recite further patentable distinctions.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 15-19 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

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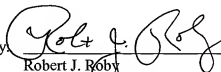
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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